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to amend the statute so as expressly to require the signature to be at the bottom of the testament." *In re Armand's Will*, 9 So. Rep. 50 (La.).

In view of the fact that it was found necessary in England to limit in turn the act of Parliament above referred to, and that a signature at the bottom of the will is not required in a majority of American jurisdictions, the criticism of the English law in the principal case seems unnecessarily severe.

REVIEWS.

SEDGWICK ON THE MEASURE OF DAMAGES. Eighth edition, revised, rearranged, and enlarged by Arthur G. Sedgwick and Joseph H. Beale, Jr. Three volumes. New York: Baker, Voorhis, & Co., 1891. pp. xii and 1360.

The eighth edition of "Sedgwick on Damages," in three large volumes, is a striking proof that the measure of compensation is not what popular opinion thought it eleven years ago (the date of the last edition), but that, on the contrary, it is a real and important auxiliary of the substantive law of property. It is now recognized that damages is a right of property in another's goods, springing from the judgment of a court that the plaintiff has a certain interest in a part of the defendant's property.

Of the forty years that have elapsed since *Hadley v. Baxendale* was decided, the last decade has seen the greatest development of the theory of compensation, and it is because the editors have collected and codified the legal product of this period that their work is of such great value.

Mr. Sedgwick's necessarily unperfected book has been analyzed and rearranged, and the original text has been increased by a third, the result of the editors' long and patient investigations. The whole of the first volume, treating of the general principles of the law of damages, is practically new matter, the most valuable part being the discussion of compensation for mental injury and for breaches of contract relating to telegraphs and to passenger carriage. Not content with generalizing the results of recent decisions, the editors have endeavored in well-considered opinions to point out the tendencies of the present rules, and to declare what they consider to be the logical consequences of the judicial position of to-day on the question of compensation.

Sedgwick's book has long been recognized in England, as well as in America, as a legal classic; but the fact that former editions have contained American citations only has tended to confine its practical value to the United States. The addition, however, by the present editors, of all the important English and Canadian decisions will have the effect of greatly extending its use, so that in the future it will be limited only by the field of the common law. To every lawyer who has this edition of the old standard on his shelves there will be the possibility of a complete knowledge of the theory of the measure of damages as it is understood at the present moment.

HISTORY OF THE LAW OF PRESCRIPTION IN ENGLAND. By Thomas Arnold Herbert, B.A., LL.B., being the Yorke Prize Essay of the University of Cambridge for 1890. London: C. J. Clay & Sons, 1891. 8vo. pp. xxi and 210.

While this book would be of little service to the practising lawyer, the student and those interested in tracing the historical development of the law will find it very useful. Besides dealing thoroughly with the subject from the historical standpoint, the writer discusses at some length many of the questions which arise upon this topic of the law. Many illustrative cases are cited, often with great fulness. The book is devoted exclusively to the law of England, as the title shows. The arrangement is systematic and the indexing thorough. [The class in Property II. will find in Chapter I. a very good discussion of the origin and growth of the "lost grant theory," in connection with the case of *Angus v. Dalton*.]

THE LAW OF ELECTRICITY. By Seymour D. Thompson, LL.D. pp. xl and 525. Central Law Journal Co., St. Louis, Mo., 1891.

This volume, as the author says in his preface, is an attempt to state and classify the adjudged law applicable to Telegraphs, Telephones, Electric Lights, Electric Railways, and other Electrical Appliances. The growing popularity of the electric current as a means of facilitating travel and communication of all kinds, has necessarily brought with it an endless flow of litigation of an entirely novel character. Though several treatises on the law of telegraph and telephone companies are in existence, no attempt has been made to collect the authorities and state the law in regard to other electrical appliances until now. The book therefore should find favor with the profession. It is also of value as containing the latest authorities on the subject of telegraphs and telephones. The elaborate and detailed table of contents is not the least valuable portion of the book; it covers twenty-one pages, and is a well-arranged and exhaustive summary of the remainder.

A TREATISE ON THE LAW OF PERSONAL PROPERTY. By Joseph J. Darlington, LL.D., of Georgetown University College of Law. Founded on the treatise of Joshua Williams, Esq. Philadelphia: T. & J. W. Johnson & Co., 1891. pp. 469.

Mr. Darlington in this work has followed Mr. Williams exactly in the division of the subject, treating it under the same head and arranging the subdivisions in the same order. Modern English statutory provisions and such parts as were of value to English lawyers, but of little value to the bar of this country, have been omitted, and the American law on the subjects treated in the foot-notes of the last edition of Williams, together with many topics not considered at all in that book, is given in the body of the work.

As stated in the preface, "every paragraph, with inconsiderable exceptions, the references in which are exclusively to English authorities, is the unchanged text of Mr. Williams. All paragraphs containing both English and American citations, or the latter only, are wholly new." The chapter on Ships and the one on Patents, Trade-marks, Prints and Labels, and Copyright are entirely new, and both have been carefully prepared. The former is the work of Martin F. Morris, LL.D., Professor of Admiralty in the Law School of the Georgetown University, and the latter was written by Robert G. Dyrenforth, LL.D., late Acting Commissioner of Patents.